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# VICK'S

## ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

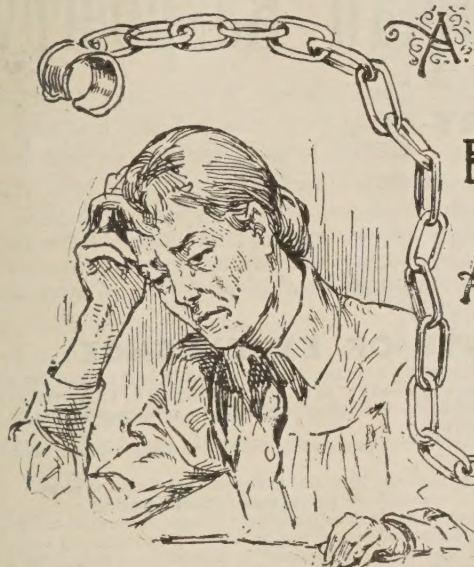
# MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co. }  
Fifty Cents Per Year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1896.

{ Volume 19, No. 11.  
New Series.



A face with features pinched and thin  
A voice so sharp 'tis nigh a sin;  
Eyes wearied, heavy, reddened, dull,  
With tears, alas, too often full,  
A struggling woman without hope,  
Her endless cleaning done with-  
*soap.*



A face filled out once more to youth  
A happy laugh, 'tis music sooth,  
And bright eyes full of peace and joy  
Seem dancing to its melody.  
What is the charm? Wise women know  
And find it in— **SAPOLIO.**

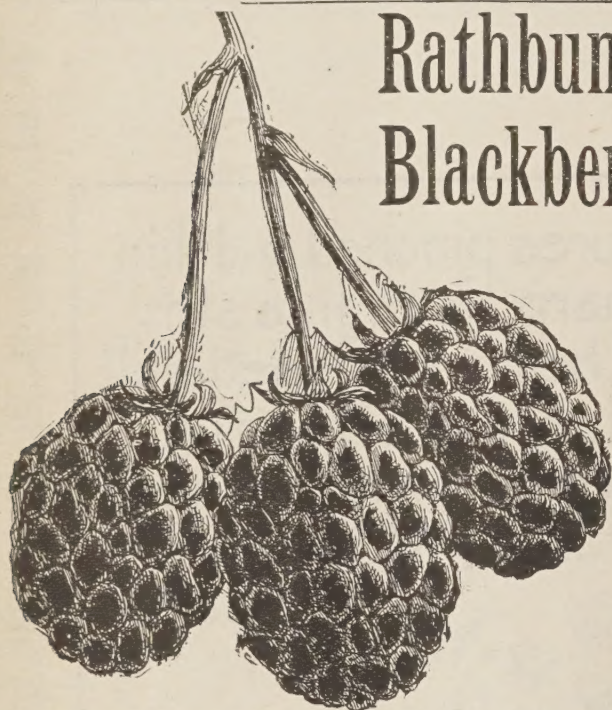




## SEEDS OF PERENNIALS FOR IMMEDIATE SOWING

The seeds named in the following list can be sowed this present month of August, or the first of September, and will make plants for blooming next summer:

Adonis vernalis, or Pheasant's Eye . . .	\$0 05	Lobelia cardinalis . . . . .	10	Lychnis Chalcedonica, bright scarlet, double white, each . . . . .	05
Asperula odorata, fragrant Woodruff . . .	05	Lupinus, mixed varieties . . . . .	05	L. Haageana, vermillion . . . . .	10
Calliopsis lanceolata . . . . .	10	Linum perenne, in different colors, blue, white, rose . . . . .	05	“hybrida, several colors, white, rose, red, etc. . . . .	10
Digitalis purpurea, in varieties; purple, white, rose color, and spotted, or mixed varieties, each . . . . .	05	Linum, yellow . . . . .	10	L. Fulgens, brilliant red . . . . .	10
Delphinium formosum, Coelestinum, Nudicaule, and Chinese varieties, each . . . . .	05	L. Narbonense, splendid variety . . .	10	L. grandiflora gigantea, large bright red flowers . . . . .	10
New varieties mixed . . . . .	10	Mixed varieties . . . . .	05	Pansy. See Floral Guide or August Magazine. All varieties and colors, each One packet each of 22 best sorts \$1.60	10
Daisy, Double, best German mixed . .	15	Myosotis (Forget-me-not)		Mixed Seeds . . . . .	10
White, Longfellow, Snowball, each . .	15	M. alpestris, blue, white, rose, each .	10	Extra Choice Mixed, our growing .	15
Glaucium corniculatum, or Horned Poppy; ornamental foliage . . . . .	05	M. alpestris robusta grandiflora, new .	10	German, fine mixed . . . . .	10
Geum atrosanguineum, a plant with crimson, double flowers . . . . .	10	M. palustris, white and blue, the true Forget-me-not . . . . .	10	Odier . . . . .	25
Hollyhock, Double, mixed seeds from the best named varieties . . . . .	10	M. Azorica var. coelestina, flowers sky-blue . . . . .	15	Bugnot, French strain . . . . .	25
Hedysarum coronarium, or French Honeysuckle . . . . .	05	Mixed varieties . . . . .	10	Cassier's Giant Blotched . . . . .	25
		Pentstemon, mixed colors, handsome	05	Giant Trimardeau . . . . .	25
		Primula eliator, the Polyanthus . . .	10	One package each of above four 80 cts.	
		P. vulgaris, the wild English Primrose	10	Superb Mixture . . . . .	50
		Sweet William, mixed seeds of all the best varieties . . . . .	05		



## Rathbun Blackberry

It is with a sense of satisfaction and pleasure that we offer to the public at this time a new fruit of the highest quality, and which we have previously brought to notice in our publications. The **Rathbun Blackberry** is admired by everyone who has seen it, and it only waits to be known to be universally appreciated. No one who has seen it has been able to criticize it. We have now watched it with the greatest interest for two years, and are not able to say it has a single weak point. Believing that in introducing it we are advancing the interest of fruit-growers and the general public, we have no hesitation in asking a consideration of its claims. Its quality is so superior that it will seem like a new kind of fruit to those accustomed to any of the old and well known varieties. The plant sends up a strong central stem and makes but few suckers; it branches freely, and tips of the shoots bend downwards, and, when brought in contact with the ground and covered with soil, take root and propagate themselves in this manner. The plant is very productive, the fruit very large and handsome and without any hard core, sweet and delicious through and through, high flavored, seeds small and scarcely noticeable.

### SUMMARY

**Plant**—Vigorous, branching, making plenty of fruiting wood; in hardiness it is very satisfactory, as far as tested; propagates from the tips of the shoots; produces fruit in great abundance.

**Roots**—Sucker but very little; run deep and branch freely, making the plant strongly drought resisting.

**Berries**—Very large, measuring from an inch and one-eighth to an inch and one-half in length, and from one inch to one inch and an eighth in diameter. Color intense black, with high polish. Flesh juicy, high flavored, soft throughout and without any hard core, sweet

and delicious. Carry well to market, retaining their form and making a handsome appearance. First quality for table use in a fresh state, or for canning, and also for cooking purposes.

Single plants, 50 cents each; one dozen plants, \$5.00.

## Columbian Raspberry.

**ITS HISTORY** The Columbian is a seedling of the Cuthbert, which grew near a Gregg blackcap, and is believed to be a cross between these two varieties. It has now been under trial for ten years, and has been tested with most flattering success at a number of State Experiment Stations, and by leading horticulturists in different parts of the country. It has also stood the test of field culture, and has been thoroughly proved to be a vigorous grower, quite hardy, immensely productive of fruit of large size, and great excellence.

### POINTS OF EXCELLENCE.

- 1—A most vigorous grower, canes ten to sixteen feet in length, and often over an inch in diameter; strong and woody; light green, changing to bright red in autumn.
- 2—Foliage very handsome and healthy, light green, retaining its health and hue until killed by autumn frosts.
- 3—Roots large and spreading, penetrating the soil to a great depth, thus enabling it to resist drouth successfully.
- 4—Propagates readily from the tips, and never suckers from the roots.
- 5—Very hardy. Has endured 28° below zero without freezing.
- 6—Fruit very large, often an inch in diameter; shape somewhat conical; color dark red, bordering on purple; adheres firmly to the stem and will dry on the bush if not picked; seeds small and deeply embedded in a rich juicy pulp, with a distinct flavor of its own, making it a most delicious table berry.
- 7—For canning purposes it is much superior to any other for the following reasons: It holds its form better, is of a more beautiful color, is sweeter and richer in flavor, shrinks less in processing.
- 8—Makes a fine evaporated berry, retaining color, form and flavor in a remarkable degree, and selling for fully one-third more than other berries.
- 9—Fruiting season very uniform, extending from July 12th to August 15th, and maintaining its high quality to the last.
- 10—Its manner of fruiting is peculiar to itself, each berry growing upon a separate stems from two to four inches long, from which it is removed without crumbling.
- 11—Excellent shipper, never crumbling or crushing in handling or transportation.
- 12—Wonderfully prolific, yielding over 8,000 quarts per acre; 3,500 bushes produced an average of five quarts each, or 17,500 quarts. Finds a ready market.

Single plants, 20 cents each; one dozen plants, \$2.00.

### BIG YIELD! BIG MONEY!

One of the largest fruit-growing firms in this section, Messrs. Teats & Sons, who planted 1,000 Columbian Raspberry plants on one-half acre in the spring of 1895, claim they have picked this month (July, 1896) **2,000 quarts**, which they sold at seven cents per quart, and that there are now on the plants over 2,000 quarts to be picked. **THINK OF IT!** 1,000 plants, on one-half acre, produced over 4,000 quarts, @ 7 cts. = \$280.00 or over \$560 per acre.

For Canning or Drying they are superior to all other varieties.

### COMBINATION PRICES

Columbian Raspberry and Rathbun Blackberry

One plant of each	\$0 60	Six plants of each	\$3 00
Three “	“ 1 65	Twelve “	5 50

## JAMES VICKS SONS, SEEDSMEN, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.



# VICKS MAGAZINE

VOL. 19

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1896

NO. 11

## BULBOUS PLANTS.

**A**MONG the most satisfactory plants for winter and spring blooming are some of the bulbous ones, such as the hyacinth, the tulip and narcissus, crocus, snowdrops and scillas, and others that may be mentioned. There is very little trouble to bring them into a blooming condition in the house, and when planted out in the open ground this operation is the completion of the labor required by them. If the bulbs are sound, they are sure to bloom, if the simple conditions of their life are observed. The flowers are packed away in the bulbs, and they bide their time to send out some roots and make some leaves, both sets of organs essential for active plants,—in a dormant state the bulbs can exist for a time without either. The roots form in a cool, moist soil. The bulbs planted in autumn commence at once the operation of rooting, and, if protected from frost, continue all winter to lengthen and strengthen their roots, so that when the mild weather of spring comes, and even when there are yet lingering frosts, the leaves push up vigorously, for they are very hardy, and seem determined to be witnesses of the departure of old winter.

And the Spring arose on the garden fair,  
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast  
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Snowdrop, and the Violet,  
Arose from the ground with warm rain wet,  
And their breath was mixed with fresh odor, sent  
From the turf, like voice and the instrument.

Then the pied wind-flowers and the tulip tall,  
And narcissi, the fairest among them all,  
Who gaze on their eyes in the stream's recess,  
Till they die of their own dear loveliness;

And the Naiad-like lily of the vale  
Whom youth makes so fair and passion so pale,  
That the light of its tremulous bells is seen  
Through their pavilions of tender green,  
And the hyacinth, purple, and white, and blue,  
Which flung from its bells a sweet peal anew  
Of music so delicate, soft, and intense,  
It was felt like an odor within the sense.

These lines of Shelley show us our bulbous favorites in the

early spring, and we can see them in the freshness of their colors and scent their delicious fragrance. The earliness of the bloom of these bulbous plants, when most other vegetation is still dormant or at least giving but little evidence of activity, and the purity and brilliancy of their colors, and their positive and pleasing odors, combine to produce an impression upon the senses unequalled by the flowers of other seasons. Those

who neglect the culture of these flowers in their gardens deprive themselves of much that is enjoyable.

And what is thus true of the plants in relation to the garden applies with almost as much force to their use as house plants, especially as applicable to those residing at the North, where the long winters are cold, and snowy, and ice-bound.

A cool, moist soil, and a cool atmosphere are essential for the healthy development of the early blooming bulbs; nor need soil scarcely be mentioned, at least for the hyacinth and the narcissus,—they will both grow and bloom well with their roots immersed in water. Blooming hyacinths in vases of water is an old practice, but a great impetus was given to this method of water culture when the Chinese came to California in considerable numbers. They brought with them, or had sent to them, their Sacred Lily, a species of narcissus with a very large bulb, which they placed among a few stones in a bowl of water to bloom. Its treatment in this manner is very satisfactory, and there is now a large trade in the bulbs. This particular variety does not appear to be raised in Europe, still it is not different in respect to water culture from the Holland-grown bulbs, and some of the stronger varieties of these will bloom quite as satisfactorily in water, as we have frequently proved. The bulbs will do quite as well if placed in a pot of moss and this set in a dish of water so that the moss will at all times be saturated. When grown in pots of soil an abundant supply of water is the main point requiring attention. Several bulbs, five or six, can occupy a five-inch pot. Hyacinths in water vases are interesting objects, but, on the



CHINESE SACRED LILY.



whole, do not appear as desirable as in pots of soil or in window boxes. The single flowered varieties are considered preferable to the double ones for pot culture, as they are more reliable in producing good spikes of flowers. It is more pleasing to have flowers of two or three colors in a pot rather than those of only one.

The success of all these bulbs when



DUC VAN THOL TULIPS.

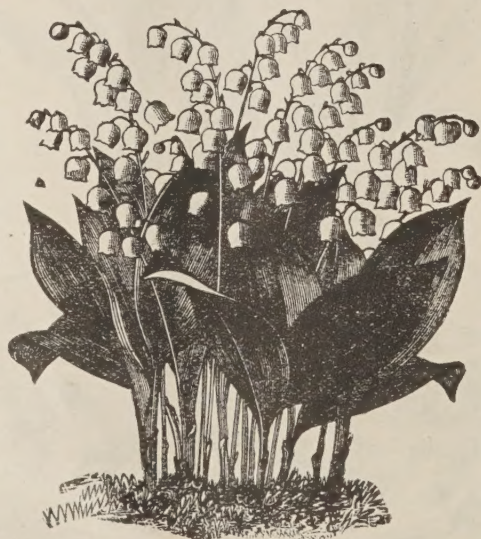
potted depends on their making a good root growth before the leaves start. To encourage this they are set away, after potting, in a dark place, where they are allowed to remain until the soil has become filled with roots. This place need not be a warm one but the reverse, but it should be secure from frost,—a temperature from forty-five to fifty-five degrees is best. If one has a number of bulbs the season of bloom may be much extended by bringing to the light a few of them at a time. The leaves will make but little advance while in the dark, and thus they can be held for several weeks. When the plants are brought to the light they should be given a place close to the glass, and the heat should not be too great. Too high a temperature has a tendency to cause the flowers to expand before the flower-stem has grown. The conditions wanted to produce a good result are low temperature, ventilation, if possible, on mild days, and a good light, and then the leaves will be strong and erect, and the flower stem will push well up before the buds commence to open.

Do not try to hurry the blooming by increase of heat, for anything gained in time will be at the expense of the flowers. For early flowers the Roman hyacinths should be selected, as they bloom in a much shorter time than the others. Of course, they furnish no variety in color, as they are only white, but they are sweet and beautiful and bloom freely.

In potting hyacinths the soil itself is not of so much importance as with other plants; any moderately rich, light soil will be proper. It is not expected that a bulb that has bloomed in the house, either

in soil or in water, will be of any particular value afterwards, as it never is; such bulbs are sometimes planted out in the garden the following spring, but they never give any good results that way, and it is better to consider their usefulness ended and throw them away. The bulbs in the pot should be set so that the tip of the bulb just shows through the soil. Narcissus bulbs are potted in the same way. If either hyacinths or narcissi are set in glasses of water—so-called hyacinth glasses—they should be placed with the base of the bulb just at the surface of the water; if kept in the water they are apt to decay.

Beds in the garden for Holland bulbs should be made mellow and rich, and the bulbs can be planted about six inches apart and covered at least three in depth, whether hyacinths, narcissi, or tulips; crocus and snowdrop bulbs need not be covered more than two inches. In pots, tulip and crocus bulbs should have an inch or more of soil over them. Bulbs planted in the garden in severe climates should be well protected. They are hardy and will not be killed by frost, but their growth may be stopped or checked. They commence to make roots very soon after planting, and if the ground should become frozen about and below them, as it might be in December and in some places even before that, then the root-growth must cease until mild weather comes, and this will prove a great detriment to the vigor and blooming capacity of the bulbs. If there is plenty of old manure at hand spread it an inch deep over the bulb beds after planting and then over this place dried leaves to a thick-



LILY OF THE VALLEY.

ness of six inches or more, or cover with evergreen boughs if they are to be had. If the frost is kept out the roots will be active all winter and will be ready to make healthy foliage and throw out flower stems early in spring.

Plenty of bulbs in the garden make it bright and cheerful a number of weeks before it would be so otherwise, and those who neglect these plants and fail to

have the garden well supplied with them miss much of beauty, enjoyment and interest. Both hyacinths and tulips are planted in masses and groups and lines of mixed colors, and in breadths or masses of single colors in each, and the latter way is one which produces most excellent effects. Borders and lines of narcissus are very fine, and so are crocus, and snowdrops, and snowflakes similarly



HOOP PETTICOAT NARCISSUS.

planted. The practice is becoming more common every year to plant crocus bulbs on lawns, scattering them about in little groups, and stringing them along, and apparently sowing them broadcast over the ground. They come very early and bloom before the grass is ready to cut and produce a very pretty appearance at a season when a little color on the ground is a great relief. The bulbs are set in the grass merely by inserting a spade and pressing open the soil sufficiently to admit placing in the bulb. The engraving on the opposite page shows how snowdrops are used in a similar manner in Great Britain, planting them under trees. This sub-arboreal planting might very well be adopted in this country, both with crocus and snowdrop, as the trees, although leafless, would to some extent screen the rays of the sun and prolong the blooming season.

Florists raise many lilies, and especially the Bermuda lily, with the object of having them in bloom in the spring, about Easter. With the proper facilities they have learned to raise these plants with very much success and have them in full bloom when wanted; experience teaches how fast they must be pushed along, or how retarded, to have them at the particular date needed. In raising these lilies in the house the grower has not the facilities of the gardener, nor his experience, to rely upon. Still their culture is attempted and often the result is all that could be desired. In house culture the greatest trouble to contend with is the heat of the rooms. But if there is a hall or room where the temperature can be kept down to about 50° they can be man-





SNOWDROPS UNDER LIME TREES AT STRAFFAN HOUSE, COUNTY KILDARE, IRELAND. FROM THE "GARDENER'S CHRONICLE."

aged. The bulbs are imported every year from Bermuda, coming over in August. It is best to pot them as soon as they can be procured, and it should not be postponed later than the month of September. A seven or eight-inch pot is suitable, and the soil should consist of about three parts fresh loam, two of leafmold, and one each of sand and well rotted manure. Place the bulb in the pot so that it will be covered about an inch deep with soil, and then give a good watering and set it away, either in a cold-frame, if there is one, or in any small, shallow box with some soil thrown into it so that the bottom of the pot will have a cool, moist place on which to rest; a few inches of grass laid over the pots will prevent the soil from drying out. Here the pot or pots can remain until it is necessary to bring them in to keep from frost, though they should not be brought in for the first light frosts, for they may be protected by a sash or board covering at night, and it may not be until some time after the middle of October when it will be found necessary to take them in. Place them in a cool window, and give air fre-

quently or keep the window open during the day time if not too cold. Supply with water as the plants appear to need it. About the first of January the room can be kept warmer, or at a temperature of 60° to 65° and in this way they can be brought into flower.

The Japan lilies, and *L. longiflorum* may be similarly treated; *Lilium candidum* may also be used in this way.

The freesia has become a very popular winter blooming bulb, and when well grown it is very desirable, the flowers being handsome, particularly graceful, and pleasingly fragrant. The bulbs are small and five or six can be set in a five-inch or six-inch pot. The soil should be light and quite rich, and the bulbs should be planted early,—the last of July if possible, but not later than September if good results are expected. The bulbs are set in the soil so that the tip is even with the surface, and it is not necessary to set them away in the dark after the manner of hyacinths and tulips, but the pots can be set outdoors in a sheltered and shady spot. As the foliage appears give the pots a place where they will get sunshine

morning and evening, and eventually expose them fully to the sun. Supply all the water needed without keeping the soil soaked. When frosts come, bring them into the house and place at a sunny window. With this treatment success will be almost certain.

The lily of the valley is much prized when pot-grown in the winter, and there is but little trouble in getting good flowers if good bulbs, or pips as they are called, are used. A business is made of raising these pips in Holland and all the best stock comes from that source. It does not arrive in this country, usually, until December, so that its culture must be undertaken later than that of most other bulbous plants. But this is no objection for the plants can be brought into bloom in four or five weeks from the time of potting. The hardy little pips appear to start and grow better after being exposed to frost, though this is not absolutely necessary; yet it is customary to mix the pips with soil and wrap them in moss and place them outside where they may experience the effect of freezing weather. If the damp moss or soil which surrounds



them is frozed stiff, it is all the better. They may then be taken in, thawed out and be set in a pot, either in soil or in moss, placing them about an inch apart and filling the pot. The pips are set down so that their tips just reach the surface. Give tepid water about once a day and keep the pot where it will be warm,—on the reservoir of a range or cook stove is a good place, or anywhere there is a constant and even heat. In about twenty days the plants will be well up and showing flower stems, and then the pot should be placed in a cooler room at a window with a good light where the leaves will grow stronger and taller and take on a good color, and the flower stems will lengthen and develop fully all their buds. The pips may be started at different times all through the winter, thus bringing them into bloom in succession. The pips can be kept out in a cool place and be brought in from time to time as wanted.

Winter bulb culture has no great difficulties, and whatever they may be, they can be easily overcome by the determined, persistent and watchful plant-grower. A stock of soil laid in during the fall will be found in frequent demand. Some good loam, some leafmold, sand and old manure, together with an assortment of pots, should be carefully provided and then one can have the blooms and the scents of spring, when outside

"The flowers and the fruits have long been dead, And not even a daisy is seen."

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#### SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

**M**AY 31st. This morning, after a night of slow rain, quite a number of perennials are at their best. The lemon lilies are a mass of gold, the "golden candlesticks" are aflame with scarlet and yellow, the valeriana's cymes, on stems four feet high, are whitening, the yellow iris is still covered with flowers. *Pæonia officinalis* is loading the grass with heaps of fallen petals, but the Chinese sorts are not yet in bloom.

*Anchusa Italica* displays hundreds of azure stars, and here is a seedling of a dark velvety violet tint, a better and stronger color than its parent's and these are deeply blue. This plant is a biennial or imperfect perennial, but it selfsows so freely you can always have it without trouble,—indeed, its culture consists in hoeing up the extra plants. It flowers till frost, but is best now. It is a plant of high merit.

The Japan quince is about done, but the perennial poppy, *Papaver orientalis*, has begun to bloom. It bears a splendid flower,—a good many of them, in fact,—which never fail to attract the attention of even the most unobservant; great saucer-shaped corollas formed of two rows of flaming scarlet petals, each with a black spot at the base. The young seed vessels, about an inch through, the countless stamens and their pollen, are all of a

peculiar purplish black. The long leaves, and in fact all parts of the plant except the flower, are gray with spines which look as if they could prick like those of a thistle, but they do not, though they are very rough to the touch. I have had it some thirty years, started from seed at that time, but if it was to be done again I would order a plant. It can be rapidly increased by division in fall or spring; if a clump is taken up, every little root left in the ground will grow, like the perennial phlox, so the more you take away the more you will have left. A soil free from standing water, an annual mulch of old manure, and the grass dug back, are all it asks; its great flaming blossoms will then light up the garden every June forever.

JUNE 8th. The "garden nettle," *veronica*, is in flower; I do not know its specific name, nor whether it is the "Blue gem" of the catalogues or not. It has many stems from one root, each bearing a tapering spike of pretty bright blue flowers. It never spreads much, but a clump once established lasts forever in sod or anywhere.

Three years ago I ordered a Russian olive, *Eleagnus hortensis*, and the little tree, now five feet high, is in flower. The flower buds look like frosted silver before they open; the flower has four sharp yellow lobes and is merely a calyx. The flowers are numerous and have a sweet scent; the botany says they perfume the air all about; mine does not, but a large tree full of bloom might do so. "The fruit is like a small date," however that may look. The young twigs are almost snow white, but the older branches have a smooth, light brown bark and are more or less thorny; the smooth, pale green leaves are almost white beneath. It is very distinct, perfectly hardy to the end of the smallest twig with me, and is a good thing.

JUNE 14th. Not long ago the cinnamon vine or Chinese yam, *Dioscorea batatas*, emerged from the ground and is already ten feet high, a blackish stem with only the merest rudiments of leaves; it looks almost more like a black serpent than a vine. It has been here three years and has increased much in size and strength each season, but starting so late that I think every spring it must be winterkilled. I put a little fine manure dirt over it late in fall—perhaps it would get along without anything—and it winters nicely. Its flowers are pretty, but are not very overpowering; its dark, shining foliage is its best point. No new vines appear from the root; the upper branches bear many little bulblets that may be planted.

I have just picked twenty-six colors and varieties of sweet williams, *Dianthus barbatus*, and very likely have not got them all. They grow here right in the grass in sod that was never plowed, spreading and increasing from year to

year; one may gather armsful of them. They seem more permanent here in the sod than in the garden, where they are rather imperfect perennials with me. No doubt here in the grass they renew themselves from seed every year or two and the sward protects them in winter. I should hesitate a little before advising anyone to buy seed and broadcast it on stiff sod, yet this is what is done here and the effect is lovely. The shade of trees seems also to be favorable for them. These selfsow as soon as ripe, in August, and I think that will be the right time.

In VICK'S MAGAZINE, 1889, was a picture and article on Japanese maples, which were said to be of many tints, green, bright red variegated with yellow, etc., and with leaves cut in many ways. It was all very interesting, the only drawback being that the little trees, grafted by the Japs I believe, cost from one to three dollars each. So when I saw the seed catalogued at ten cents a packet, I ordered some at once. The seeds are odd little things for maple seeds, but they grow readily, and I have quite a number of plants. The second leaves, so far as they have any, are almost fern-like, they are so deeply cut. The tints, except green, are yet to be developed. Further reports may be looked for when I have learned more myself. I am already sure they will be delightful trees if they succeed, even if all my seedlings bear only green foliage. Hundreds of tints and variations were promised, we shall see what we shall see.

E. S. GILBERT.

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#### DATURA, OR ANGEL'S TRUMPET.

**T**HE daturas, though near relatives of the homely, poisonous, rank smelling henbane so common on low grounds near ponds and creeks, are wonderfully handsome plants. They are all coarse, large plants, from three to five feet high, and branching freely, so that for decorative purposes in the garden they are grand; the foliage is large and handsome, very dark green, and the flowers large and very attractive. Many of the single flowers are from five to six inches in length, while the double ones are even longer and often measure five inches across the mouth of the flower.

The usual supposition is that to double a trumpet-shaped flower is to spoil it, but after seeing some of the double daturas I have changed my mind. The single blossoms may be more graceful, perhaps, but the double ones attract much attention, as they have the appearance of two or three perfect lilies, one within the other. The ordinary sorts are easily grown from seed planted in the open ground in May, and many of them can be kept in the cellar over winter like dahlias. The most common sorts are *D. Wrightii*, fine single white; *D. fastuosa fl. albo pleno*, double white; *D. fastuosa flore pleno*, double purple; *D. humilis flore pleno*,





CALLAS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

double yellow. The new "Cornucopia, or horn of plenty," is the finest sort, and has been introduced in this country within the last three or four years. It is said to have been found in South America by an orchid hunter, and he, recognizing its great worth, sent all the stock he could obtain to this country. The plants grow readily from seed, doing better if sown early in the house so the young plants will be well started in time to bed out in May. They grow rapidly and are soon in bloom, and continue to flower for a long time. The flowers are white inside, while the outside is marked with dark purple, and like the stems of the plant, appears as if varnished. There are three distinct flowers, one within another, sometimes reaching nine or ten inches in length, and four or five inches across.

As the plants grow so large they do best when planted singly, or they can be used as pot plants. All of the varieties are very fragrant, and in the evening they perfume the garden. The seed pods of some sorts, especially Cornucopia, are very ornamental, being large and thorny, and of a deep purple color.

A large bed of this sort on Wooded Island, at the late Columbian Exposition, did more to advertise the plant than all the newspaper notices in the country,—for once to see a plant is to procure one by hook or crook. BERNICE BAKER.

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#### THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE CALLA.

WHILE not disposed to disparage the Little Gem, the Arum or black calla, nor the more recent pink calla, reported to have bloomed in the

hothouses of Messrs. Krelage & Sons, of Holland, yet for all-round purposes, for good results, and no disappointed expectations, the well-known old calla, *Richardia Africana*, is the best.

Tastes differ in the matter of flowers. Mr. Ellwanger, an acknowledged authority, does not admire the calla. He thinks it is too stiff for aught but "lugubrious duty at funerals." Admirers of the flower call it stately. In its unchanged form of single, spreading, cream-white spathe, very marked individuality is shown. No culture, no change of climate, no system of hybridization has changed its type. It stands as one of the plainest [object lessons of Goethe's theory (now an established fact, and a commonplace rule of text-books,) that the leaf is a cause and not an effect; that all vegetation, seeds, roots, stems and flowers, are but modifications of leaf structure. The spathe is but the unfolded stem, and the stem but enfolded leaf.

Single specimens, well grown, are handsome, but many, in a group and under exciting culture, are suggestive of the grandeur of the land of the lotus, papyrus and palm. The illustration herewith shows the possibilities of the calla. In Southern California the corms acquire wonderful strength and vigor. They are planted by thousands, and shipped to all points in Europe and America. These corms take with them the vigor induced by growth in a genial soil and climate. Planting these improved roots gives better results in the culture of the calla.

Bed them out, in designs if the ground

is sufficiently commodious, or fill large tubs with them, and give the profuse moisture their semi-aquatic nature demands, with rich soil, and there will be a bit of blooming redundancy and of Southern luxuriance in Northern conservatories, when sleighbells are jingling and skates are passing to and fro over frozen waters.

The Californian experts say the bloom stem should not be cut, but gently detached from the root. The long stems are a decided advantage in many forms of decoration. They say the calla delights in exciting culture. To form some idea of the possibilities of this flower, where climate and soil are entirely congenial, a cross of 1,500 blooms rested its base on the chancel and spread its arms overhead under the dome of a church in Los Angeles, on Easter morning.

For the flower festivals they are cut from the hedges and fields of callas by thousands. The California-grown roots have given a new impetus to the culture of the calla under artificial surroundings.

GEORGIE TORREY DRENNAN.

### HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as second class mail matter.

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200,000

Average Monthly Circulation.

#### Feeding Crimson Clover.

A very important circular has been sent out by the Department of Agriculture in relation to feeding crimson clover after it has been allowed to ripen its seed. It appears that the plants, and especially the flower stems and calyces of the flowers, have short, barbed hairs, which become stiff and sharp in the mature plants, and when this cured or dry hay is fed to horses the result may be fatal. Several instances of death in horses are mentioned from this cause. It appears that after eating this fodder the hairs collect in balls in the stomach or intestines of the animal and interlock, and from day to day increase in size "by repeated additions of the same matter to their surfaces, the whole mass tending to become more compact because most of the hairs, upwardly barbed, are constantly pushing toward the center, base foremost. When a ball has reached a sufficient size (whether after a few days or several weeks we have no means of knowing,) it acts as a plug in the intestines, interfering with the vital functions, and finally, after a few hours of intense suffering, the horse dies from peritonitis or some related difficulty."

There is no danger in feeding the clover green, as then the hairs are soft and pliable, nor is there any danger in the use of the cured product if cut before it is allowed to go to seed. The cases of death brought to the notice of the Department were caused by feeding the straw that had been thrashed for its seed.

"The hairs of crimson clover do not become stiff until the plant has passed the flowering stage and begun to ripen. It should be made a rule, therefore, never to feed crimson clover after the crop has ceased flowering, and especially never to follow the pernicious practice of feeding stock with the straw of crimson clover raised and thrashed as a seed crop."

#### Sweet Pea, Bride of Niagara.

It is a pleasure to be able to inform our readers that the double sweet pea, Bride of Niagara, is making rapid improvements by a very desirable increase in the proportion of double flowers. It is being carefully bred by securing seeds from the double flowers, and each year shows an advance on the preceding. The double flowers this season from the best stock seed are very numerous. The sweet pea is a somewhat difficult plant to breed, but by care it can be done, and we have no doubt that in a year or two more, at least, this new double variety will conquer the prejudices of conservatives, and have the claims for superiority that have been made for it fully admitted.

At the Sweet Pea Exhibition at Springfield, Mass., July 28th and 29th, in accordance with prizes which had been offered for "Ten Sprays of Double Sweet Pea, Bride of Niagara," the first prize was awarded to W. A. Phelps; second, E. A. Weeks; third, W. J. Eldred. The exhibit of this variety by W. A. Phelps is reported as extra good. In the report of this exhibition made by "Fulton," and published in the *Florists' Exchange*, the statement is made that "Bride of Niagara is much the best of the double sorts."

If our field of Bride of Niagara, as it appears at this date, August 10th, could be seen by florists and gardeners generally, there would be heard a unanimous voice of approval, and no one would think of making the stale assertion that doubling the sweet pea spoils it. A single bannered sweet pea looks meager beside good blooms of double flowers.

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#### Tumbling Mustard.

A new and troublesome weed has been introduced into this country from Europe and is now making itself prominent in a number of localities. The plant is known as tumbling mustard, *Sisymbrium altissimum*. It was observed in 1883 along the tracks of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, at Sheffield, about five miles east of Kansas City, Mo. It has since spread in that vicinity. During the last three years it has been observed in different localities, and among others at Aberdeen, S. D., Chicago, Weehawken, N. J., Minneapolis, Minn., Davenport, Blue Grass and Dickens, Iowa; also in various points in Canada, Alberta, Vancouver Island, Winnipeg, Sheffield, Mo., and at Quebec and elsewhere. It will be seen that it is already widely spread, though, as yet, it does not occupy much area in any of these localities.

It is the subject of a circular (No. 7) sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Botany. Our readers in all parts of the country should send for this circular, applying as above, at Washington, D. C., and learn the habits of this plant and the means of eradicating it. The engravings and description of the plant in the circular will enable it to be identified.

#### Injurious Fungi.

Atmospheric conditions of great humidity and high temperature prevailed over a wide extent of territory during the last days of July and first ten days of August. These conditions were exceedingly favorable to the growth of fungi. Mushrooms, both good and bad, grew apace under trees and shrubs and other leafy plants, and in other moist and shady places. But the bad effects of these conditions are especially experienced by fruit growers. The vineyards which up to that time were practically exempt from mildew began to show it on their leaves, and we are informed that in some sections, notably along the Atlantic coast, the visitation is somewhat serious. It this locality it has not done great harm, as more favorable weather after the 12th of August checked its progress. It is reported that the peach crop of Maryland and Delaware, while on the trees, was nearly ruined by mildew at that time.

Complaints reach us from many sources, all across the country from the sea coast to the Mississippi, of the mildew of roses and rotting of the stems of sweet peas. The trouble appears to be wide spread, and one against which cultivators are powerless.

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#### Injurious and other Insects.

Dr. Lintner, State entomologist, will please accept our thanks for a copy of the Tenth Annual Report on the "Injurious and other Insects of the State of New York."

This volume, lately issued, contains accounts of many insects which have recently infested plants in this and other States, giving their habits and depredations, together with modes of repelling, avoiding or destroying them. The text is illustrated with four full page plates and numerous engravings. The volume is made especially valuable by having a complete index to all the Reports (I-X) up to the present time.

The farmers, gardeners and fruit growers of this State can heartily congratulate themselves in having the services of Dr. Lintner to aid them directly in a knowledge of troublesome insects, and devising means for their destruction. But the assistance thus received is not confined to the State of New York, for by means of the press all useful information of this kind imparted by the Doctor is spread throughout the land for the benefit of the whole agricultural community.

# Just

Now Hood's Sarsaparilla will do you great good by purifying your blood, giving you appetite, and sweet, refreshing sleep.

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Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

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## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

### Mildew on Roses.

Kindly tell me the cause of mildew on rose bushes and what will remove it. C. L. H. Woodstock, Ill.

See answer to L. E. R., "Curling Rose Leaves," on this page.

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### Mildew on Pansies.

My pansy plants (July 30th) are troubled with mildew. Please tell me what to do for them. Worthington, Minn. MRS. F. J. C.

Probably with cooler weather the plants will outgrow the mildew. Our enquirer does not describe the location of the plants. Of course, they should not be on a piece of low, undrained soil. The plants like a cool, moist ground; but for all that, there must be no stagnant moisture, nor must it be so sheltered that the air has not a good circulation over it.

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### Disease of Sweet Peas.

I noticed several letters in the July number of the Magazine, which are largely commented on, in regard to the blight of sweet peas. I am an amateur, but think I have a remedy notwithstanding. I forgot when ordering seeds from Vick, to order sweet peas, so went to a store and bought a package which I planted rather late, in common soil. I noticed after they were a few inches high the trouble referred to. I immediately secured some woods dirt, dug the soil carefully away from the plants and replaced it with the woods dirt. The result was surprising. They immediately began to grow and turn green at the ground where they were seemingly dead. The peas are seven feet high and have the finest blooms I have ever seen. I attribute the result to the remedy referred to above, as I took no further care of them.

I treated the clematis plant which I got from you late last spring, in like manner and it is growing nicely and is very thrifty. It has grown five feet and has five stalks. I use woods dirt for a great many plants and find it superior to all others, not excepting many of the so-called commercial fertilizers.

I like the questions and answers in the Magazine very much. H. W. W.

Beallsville, Ohio.

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### The New Rose, Pink Soupert.

At one time or another I have grown many varieties of roses, but none have been more generally satisfactory than some of the Polyantha class; these are known as the "Baby" or "Fairy" roses, and are distinguished by their compact form of growth and the freedom with which they send out their tiny delicate flowers. Mignonette is one of the best of the varieties first introduced, as it produces its beautiful pink flowers in great profusion. The white Clothilde Soupert of later introduction is especially desirable. Many of its blossoms are as large as an ordinary tea rose and exceedingly lovely. Color a pearly white, with center a soft salmon peach. I have grown this rose successfully for three years in the open ground. In winter it is protected with hemlock boughs or buckwheat straw, and as soon as warm weather sets in it is ready for immediate bloom. This year I have been testing the new rose Pink Soupert. The plant was received of Vicks Sons in May, and at once began vigorous growth. The first buds I picked off, as I wanted the plant to form a compact growth. In July the first bud was allowed to uncloset its lovely petals side by side with a white Clothilde of the same age. The pink is all it is represented to be by its most enthusiastic admirers. It may be said to be identical with its progenitor, white Clothilde Soupert, with the exception of foliage and color of flower. The foliage is dark and of good texture. The color of the blossom is a deep "Hermosa" pink. It seems very free to bloom. At this writing (August) the abundant new shoots are covered with buds. The two Souperts would be, I am sure, very desirable as winter bloomers for the house.

MRS. M. F.

### Sowing Seed in the House.

1—Could the following named seed, aster, Chinese pink, petunia, phlox Drummondii, verbena, zinnia, be planted at same time in the house in spring, and what would be the proper time in order to have plants ready to put out as soon as possible?

2—Proper thickness of soil in box for seeds?

3—Could the plants be transplanted the first time from house to cold frame?

4—How early can lettuce and radish be started in a cold frame?

5—How soon should tomato plants be started in the spring to have plants as early as possible? Am very much pleased with the Early Leader tomato. Meriden, Conn. F. B.

1—For the latitude of our correspondent, and most of the northern States, the latter part of February or first of March would be a suitable time to sow the seeds named, with the exception of verbena and zinnia. It would be better to sow verbena seed about a month earlier and zinnia about a month later.

2—Soil in flats in which seed is sown can be about two and a half inches in thickness.

3—It would be advisable to transfer the plants to cold frames as soon as these can be safely occupied.

4—About the first of April at the North, is the proper time to commence use of cold frame.

5—In a greenhouse, where the plants can be properly cared for, tomatoes can be started by the middle of February. But if confined to the window and a cold frame, the middle of March is early enough.

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### A Bed of Peonies.

When is the best time to start a peony bed, spring or fall? How can one fix the bed so moles cannot get in? Are twelve plants enough, and which varieties give the best show? How long before they will bloom, and can one plant something among them to get a show the first year? How would gladiolus do? Grinnelle, Iowa. MRS. F. H.

Peonies can be planted either in the fall or spring. On the whole, the fall is the better time. The hot weather often comes on so rapidly in spring, when the frost is once out of the ground, that there is but short time for planting. Roots removed and transplanted in the fall have all the fall and winter to heal over any wounds and be ready for starting at the opening of spring. If removal is delayed until spring, the first season's growth would be apt to be much more feeble.

There is probably no way to prevent moles from any particular spot if they frequent the ground. The proper thing is to trap, catch and destroy them.

It is quite a matter of taste and ground room and other conditions that will decide how many plants to set. A bed of peonies cannot make much show except for the short time the plants are in bloom. They are very showy while they last, but a bed devoted to them would look very somber after the blooming season. Three or four plants of peony in a group look very well, and after blooming the foliage is sufficiently good to appear well, but if a bed of some size should be devoted to them, it would become uninteresting. Our correspondent's idea of planting

gladiolus among the plants is a good one. Besides planting peonies in small groups of three or four, we would place them at the front of a border of shrubs.

Varieties should be selected to show as much difference as possible among the flowers. If the plants are planted in good soil and well cared for, they may bloom the second year, but not very much can be expected from them until the plants have become strong.

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### Curling Rose Leaves.—Iris.—Ants.—Asters.

1—Please tell me through the Magazine the cause and remedy of rose leaves curling and dying; also of rust on rose leaves. These are the conditions of nearly all my hybrid perpetuals this season.

2—Does Iris Kämpferi blossom every year? In my garden, those that blossomed last season have failed to bloom this summer, though they look flourishing.

3—Do ants eat pansy leaves? The application of hellebore was beneficial in destroying the small slugs or worms which ate my pansy plants in the spring. Still holes appear in the leaves and there are ants in the bed, though I do not detect them on the plants.

4—Some of my asters stop growing for a while and then die, and I find the stem, for about half an inch above the root, decayed; has this been caused by too much water? Other asters in the same bed are not thus affected. L. E. R.

1—The trouble with the rose leaves is probably mildew. The rust is another fungus. The spores of mildew are floating about in the atmosphere and settle upon the rose leaves and germinate when the conditions are favorable. Anything which suddenly checks the growth or weakens the vitality of a rose plant makes it susceptible to mildew. The following are some of the causes: Cold, sharp winds or cold drafts of air when the plant is growing rapidly; undrained or wet subsoil; a lack of sufficient nutriment in the soil; a continuous high temperature day and night; several continuous days of high atmospheric humidity. Some varieties of roses of weak constitution are more subject to mildew than others. When there is a great outbreak of mildew on roses it may be quickly checked by the use of sulphur. The most effective method of its application is by the use of sulphide of potash. Dissolve an ounce of the sulphide in three or four gallons of water and with the solution syringe the affected foliage thoroughly, drenching both upper and under sides of the leaves. If this is done towards evening the mildew will be found dead in the morning. But the same causes that favored its appearance in the first place may conspire to another visitation of it. Well drained and well enriched soil and good cultivation, all conditions favoring the vigor of the plant, will have a tendency to ward off attacks of the fungus.

2—Well-established plants supplied plentifully with water will bloom every year.

3—Ants do not eat pansy leaves; the holes are caused in some other way.

4—There is a disease which sometimes affects asters in the manner described, but as yet, it is imperfectly understood, and a positive remedy is not known.



## HARDY FLOWERS.

WE were saying the other day that if we did not plant a seed this year there were perennials enough in the garden to give us a succession of flowers all summer. After the iris and pæonies are gone, the pyrethrums, pink and white, and the old-fashioned sweet rocket, pur-

unfolding of the flower. Nothing can be fairer or sweeter but the rose.

But I cannot conscientiously say that roses will make a first-class showing for those who have absolutely "no time." They are the aristocrats of the garden and exact some attention from their admirers. But aphids, thrips, and rose slugs

but the beautiful colors and large trusses of the varieties of today. Whoever has grown the Virgo Marie knows what a white phlox is and should be. It is large trussed, firm in texture, not liable to burn with the sun, and of a stainless white like an Easter lily. Richard Wallace, white with violet eye, should be in every collection. Atheis, a rosy scarlet tinged salmon, is one of the showiest and best; and, with its other desirable qualities, is one of the very earliest of the tall varieties. The Cross of Honor, striped lilac and white, is a treasure. If one had a good collection of the phloxes alone there would be flowers in the border from spring to fall, without any great expenditure of time. The list would begin with the little creeping Phlox amœna, blossoming through the months of May and June, and ending with the very latest flowered varieties.

The hollyhocks are always in order, and are quite easily raised from seed, though sometimes the beautiful mixed colors are somewhat disappointing. A few years ago I procured seed from what I supposed was the very best mixed seed offered. It germinated nicely and wintered fairly well, only a few dying out. When they blossomed every one was snow white, double as a rose, and beautiful, but no variety. Seed was then procured from another place, and of the best quality. When they came to maturity every one was pink, double, and every way desirable,—but all pink. So with cheerful optimism I shall try again, and this time shall probably get back to the



DOUBLE AND SINGLE CHINESE PINKS.

ple and white, begin to open. These are readily started from seed, and with a little covering are almost sure to winter well. The sweet williams and Chinese pinks can also be depended upon for a great variety of form and color and are desirable for cutting, while in the grass plat great clumps of lemon lilies open in the sun.

Purple columbines are neighbors to the stately iris, and vie with them in profusion of bloom; and over by the fence grows a mat of double buttercups, whose golden shimmer delights the hearts of the children. In another corner, snugly nestled away under the leaves of a grape vine, is a bed of the striped grass so admired by our grandmothers. Apart from its tender associations, it is convenient to use when arranging the perennials, and I have known it to attend church with them quite regularly during the spring months, adding a graceful finish to an otherwise stiff bouquet.

*Helianthus multiflorus plenus* bears up under the infliction of its dreadful name, and is usually hardy here. By growing clusters in several different places in the garden some of them are sure to come through and give enough plants for generous use. They are almost as beautiful as a yellow dahlia, and being so hardy and prolific are much less trouble.

Of course there are lilies, and lilies, from the immense gold-banded ones to the gorgeous tiger lilies, both single and double, and all of them, from the least to the greatest, are watched with interest from the first showing of the bud to the

can be controlled if one is not too faint-hearted, and is willing to spend a little time and strength. Of all the applications I have ever tried I like water from the garden hose best. They detest water, like any tramp, and cannot stand the forcible spray. A few minutes a day of this

treatment usually routs them utterly, and when the roses are opened, fresh and dewy among their green leaves, really the labor is forgotten.

The perennial phloxes are also iron-clad for hardiness,—I do not mean the scraggly specimens of a faded-out purplish magenta color of thirty years ago,



PERENNIAL PHLOX.

Pink, and purple, and dark maroon,  
Yellow, and heart's-blood red

that an unusually severe winter deprived me of. These double beauties do not seem as hardy as the single ones that used to thrive so luxuriantly without any covering or coddling whatever. They were regular gypsies, taking possession



of a favorite corner and settling it with colonies of every hue and color a hollyhock could attain to, and their huge satiny flowers were favorite resorts of vagrant bumble bees or more industrious honey bees. It is no wonder that these insects "improve the shining hours" if they have a plantation of hollyhocks to work in.

The list of hardy flowers might be made much longer, but these are only a few that anyone may cultivate. I know such a list years ago would have saved me a considerable outlay of time and money in experimenting, and it is with the hope that someone may find it useful now that I venture to send it out.

SARAH A. GIBBS.

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### ROSE CULTURE.

*Continued from page 155.*

*Sports.*—Besides being raised as seedlings, new roses occasionally come from a "sport." Sometimes a branch will develop a flower quite different from all the rest on the bush. If this branch is marked and budded from or grafted it is very likely the new variety will be "fixed." Thus the Bride of Reigate, that remarkable red and white striped rose, was obtained from the Comtesse d'Oxford, a red rose; and thus Mr. Prince obtained his pure white S. M. Prince from the pink Souvenir d'un Ami. There is, however,

door she will very likely come in at the back!" I myself have had lately a very singular experience. I budded climbing Devoniensis on a Cheshunt hybrid under glass. The result was a crimson rose with pointed bud, but with no Devonien-sis about it. I have put in many thousand buds, but never before knew an instance of the stock changing the nature. A branch has been sent to Mr. George Paul, who considered the matter worth investigating.

*Reproduction.*—In respect of reproducing existing varieties, budding of course is the easiest and most speedy procedure. Grafting is also largely resorted to by nurserymen, and some new roses are thus started which are rather enfeebled. It is an easy plan also in the autumn to insert cuttings about October, when the earth is still warmer than the air is becoming. If put in under a bell-glass the majority are sure to strike, and will make capital little bushes for planting out by the following June. The origin of one rose, the moss, has been poetically related.

*Watering.*—I am not a strong advocate of watering. Unless done continuously it draws the roots up to the surface, only to suffer the more seriously when a drouth sets in. Well-established standards and bush roses, with tap roots, will stand a great deal of dry weather without flagging, especially if kept syringed, a thing I was always particular about with my exhibition roses, as soon as the sun was off them. Plants drink largely through their leaves, and rejoice in these being well wetted. In town gardens, with a hose, they should find themselves in clover, but, unhappily, for the most part have largely favored rivals. Where water can be turned on among exhibition roses I have seen barrels sunk between the beds at intervals, and excellent manure water thus manufactured for them. Even then nothing else can make up for the want of rain water, or vie with it when it comes in the shape of a thunder storm; electrical rain is the one best of all.

The greatest success I ever scored at a show came about in this way. I remember the evening before a big rose show—it was after a fortnight's drouth—inspecting my rose beds with despair, and determined it would be utter folly to think of exhibiting on the morrow. Two or three hours after there came up a heavy thunderstorm; it rained half the night. The next morning, by nine o'clock, my garden was utterly transformed. I could cut and come again, and have spare blooms in abundance. That day I won two first prizes in classes open to all England, beating with my modest box of twelve (I seldom show more) amateurs and nurse-

rymen from various parts of the kingdom, men who had as many thousand plants as I could count hundreds; but I seemed to have that delightful thunder rain all to myself.



SWEET WILLIAM.

Very hot weather is most trying. Then I used to purchase straw hats by the dozen, and comfortable wearing the roses all found them. In wet weather, on the other hand, tin caps are required, and are almost essential if tea roses are to be exhibited. A single soaking shower may utterly ruin the tender petals of a high-class tea. Umbrellas are useful both in rain and sunshine. It was a standing joke against me in Surrey that a friend was prevented from calling at the Vicarage by the vast array of parasols he saw about the grounds. He thought a large garden party was going on, and did not like to intrude! If fine blooms are to be obtained manure water must of course be given when the roses begin to show color, but not when very dry, or to young and delicate plants. Babies are not brought up on beefsteaks and porter.

EXHIBITING.

I have already glanced at this, but some few further words may perhaps be admissible. I am prepared to go rather further in the way of advice than that cautious gentleman who was so resolved that his rival should not make much out of him. "In growing," he answered, "for exhibition we find that everything depends on everything else, and we act accordingly." I have had a long experience. I learned first "how not to do it" when I began showing my roses,—some pronounced "pretty, but quite too small!" The next year I took Paul Neyron, La Reine, Edward Morren, and nine others of that calibre. These were pronounced "coarse and quite too large!" When I had learned the right size and proper manner



HOLLYHOCKS.

always a danger of a relapse to the old type. Nature dislikes being interfered with. "If you turn her out of the front



of setting up, then came perils of journeying. Sometimes on arriving my box of twelve would have only three or four presentable; the rest would have succumbed to the heat of the weather. My box lid had been made too shallow, and when that was rectified, and with the spare bloom box also well ventilated, then I found that many fair seeing roses were quite unreliable.

"Beware," I find in my notebook, "of Comtesse d'Oxford and all the Victor Verdier tribe!" Even Chas. Lefebvre is not quite to be trusted; and fair LaFrance has more than once failed me cruelly. Annie Wood, though solid looking, is absolutely unreliable. Again, there is great danger where roses have been cut for some time; under such circumstances they will go to pieces very suddenly. The best box of six teas I ever sent to a show—it was at Bath—had in it a superb Rubens, but it had been kept too long. One of my rivals, who was looking at the box with dissatisfaction, told me afterwards—I was not there—that just before the judges came around, to his great delight he saw this Rubens suddenly collapse and slide down like a snow wreath. It was at once replaced with a smaller rose, but the character of the box had been hopelessly ruined, as that good old lady said of something else, under some other circumstances, "You might write 'knickerbocker' over it; its glory was departed!"

The style of rose I used to select latterly was a good, fat, stout one, like Star of Waltham. Marie Rady is trustworthy, so is Marie Baumann. Maréchal Niel is always reliable, and is by far the most generally useful of all roses. An exhibitor should grow more of this than of any other sort.

One time, at the Crystal Palace, when I gained two first prizes and a third, there were eight Maréchal Niels in my twenty roses—one in the first prize box of twelve, one in the six tea box, and the rest in the six yellow of any kind, which came in an easy first on that occasion. The Maréchal is a good all-round rose, and a marvelous progeny for that mean little Isabella Gray to have had. That was a very "one horse affair" at the best, while the Maréchal is what the Americans call a "whole team, and a dog under the wagon."—*Alan Cheales, in Journal of Horticulture.*

TO BE CONTINUED.

\* \*

#### STRAWBERRIES IN THE GARDEN.

The rains of July and August have enabled strawberry plants to make excellent runners which promise to be well rooted and ready for planting the present month.

Every kitchen garden should have a strawberry bed, and a new bed should be made every year, if the best results are expected. It will not do to depend on a bed for a second crop; it may produce a poor one, or it may be nearly worthless,—it cannot produce a second crop of fine fruit.

It is very much easier to prepare the ground and set the plants for a new bed in September than it is in the spring, when

work of all kinds is driving. The danger at that time is that other work will prevent its planting, and, so, many gardens are deprived from year to year of this delicious and healthful fruit. In planting for market we should prefer to do the work in spring, but in the garden the small space required can be set in the fall and so cared for and protected as to ensure its success. Make the ground rich, prepare it well, set it with thrifty young plants and encourage a good growth this fall, and the bed will be well on the way for a good crop the second spring following and to succeed the bed made last spring. Be sure and set about one-third of the plants of some staminate variety, if the others are pistillate. It is expected that in every garden the varieties are labeled, so that when it is time to take young plants there will be no uncertainty about the varieties. Good varieties of strawberries are now so numerous, especially those adapted to the family garden, that one may feel much reluctance about naming a few sorts; and some varieties apparently thrive very much better in some localities than others. Some few of the kinds that one may name for the garden, and not go amiss, since they have proved to be generally reliable, are as follows: Beder Wood, Bubach, Crescent, Cumberland, Charles Downing, Greenville, Haverland, Lovett's Early, and Sharpless.

Of these Bubach, Crescent, Greenville and Haverland are pistillate and the others staminate varieties.

\* \*

#### SUCCESSFUL SWEET PEA CULTURE.

My sweet peas were planted about the 10th of April. The seed was sown about three inches deep, no fertilizer was used at the time; planted pretty thick. After the plants were up I cultivated them often and carefully, until four or five feet high, working in fertilizer at different times, and attended very carefully to watering and support. The result at date of writing, August 12th, is that I have fine, thrifty vines about seven feet high, which have yielded an abundance of flowers during the hot spell and still continue to do so. I cut the flowers regularly and try to keep all cut off as they come into bloom.

Meriden, Conn.

F. B.

\* \*

#### LICE AND ANTS ON APPLE TREE.

I have an apple tree that has made a big growth, but the ends are covered with green lice and an army of ants are going up and down the tree; are they going up to eat the lice (for there is where they go), or to deposit something to make more.

Montpelier, Vt.

L. B. H.

The ants visit the aphides, or lice, for the purpose of procuring and feeding on a liquid which the lice secrete. The aphides are called "ant's cows." Spray the trees with diluted kerosene emulsion, which will destroy the lice.

#### SOME BASKET PLANTS.

In a late number of *American Gardening* James Jensen mentions some varieties of ferns and begonias which he considers specially well adapted to basket culture. Of ferns he mentions *Nephrolepis exaltata*, *N. heterophylla* and *N. davallioides* furcans, *Davallia canariensis*, *Goniophlebium sub-auriculatum*, *Adiantum Farleyense*, *A. monochlamys* and *A. Edgeworthii*.

The begonias named are *B. Rex*, *B. glaucophylla scandens*, *B. radicans*, *B. Thurstoni* and *Comtesse de Merville*.

The kind of basket preferred for these plants is the wire one which is first to have sphagnum or packing moss placed about the sides and over the bottom, and then filled with soil consisting of one-third loam and two-thirds leafmold, or equal parts of each.

\* \*

#### JAPANESE IRISES.

Japanese irises are among the most useful of plants in the herbaceous border. Besides the many beautiful colors in which they exist, they bloom later than any other kind, prolonging the iris season from April till July. Although growing very well in an ordinary garden border, they delight in quite wet places. In some collections they are planted where it is practicable to flood them with water every few days, which results in vigorous growth and extra large flowers. All irises are moisture loving plants, and might be used in wet places where many other ones would not thrive. They are frequently pictured in Japanese river scenes.—*Meehan's Monthly.*

\* \*

#### THE MYSTERY OF THE PEARL.

The usual source of pearls found within the oyster appears to be the intrusion of some small foreign body which sets up an irritation of cuticle. The only means of defense open to the mollusk is to deposit a layer of nacre around the irritating particle and thus cut it off from the soft, tender skin. A grain of sand or a small crustacean may slip in between the lips, and setting up irritation, provoke the cuticle to deposit around it a series of thin films of nacre. These are added to from time to time, the little nucleus is completely encysted, and a pearl is the result.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

\* \*

PENNSYLVANIA MOUNTAIN TEA—Under this name the leaves of one of the golden rods, *Solidago odora*, are in common use as tea by the families of the German race in the interior of Pennsylvania. Men gather the leaves in the summer time, and many are said to make a good living at the work. They peddle it in the winter time.—*Meehan's Monthly.*

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## A CELERY AND ROOT STORAGE HOUSE.



It is of the greatest benefit to every farmer and a necessity to every market gardener that a suitable house be built for storing celery and the various root crops needed for winter use.

Comparatively few farmers have cellars and generally winter their potato and other root crops in pits out of doors; this requires a great deal of labor, and has one great disadvantage, and that is it is next to impossible to get into the pits in cold weather, just the time we most relish their contents. The labor required each year to safely pit the potatoes, etc., grown on an average farm, would build a storage house which would last for years and be handy and convenient. A house of this sort is indispensable to the market gardener who wishes to furnish fresh celery, salsify, parsnips, cabbage, onions, beets, turnips, etc., to his customers during the winter. I consider it useless to grow winter celery for market without a house of some sort; put up in trenches the tops always get wet and decay, and it is impossible to ventilate them. Most farms have a south hillside or slope near the house which is just the place for the storage house. If possible, I select a south hill with considerable slope, then I dig the earth away until I have a level terrace of the size I wish the house to be, leaving a straight wall of earth on the north side. Along this wall I set a row of posts some ten or twelve feet high, then another row through the center of the house, sufficiently lower than the first row to suit the slope of the roof, which is to be a lean-to. Still another row of posts should be set along what is to be the south side of the house, these posts to be three to five feet high, according to the width of the house and the slope given the roof. Strong plates should be nailed on top of these posts, to nail the roof to, which may be made of cheap, rough lumber or slabs; it should be made stout so as to sustain the weight of sods or litter placed on top to keep out the cold. These boards should be nailed on up and down, from ridge to eave, and another board put over each crack; this will make it sufficiently tight. The side and ends should be closed by nailing boards to the posts and then banked up to the roof with earth and sods. Space should be left at one end for a door, which should be made to fit tight, so as to exclude frost in cold weather. The roof should be covered with sod, straw, leaves or litter of sufficient depth to exclude the frost in the coldest weather. A board flue—made by nailing four boards together—should extend through the roof, at the opposite end from the door, for ventilation; this ventilator should be kept open during mild weather, but carefully

stopped up during the freezing period. A low temperature—if above freezing—is best for the keeping of all roots, celery or fruit. Where no hillside is to be had, one can build the house on any well-drained spot of ground by excavating two or three feet and then covering the house with a span roof instead of a lean-to.

### CELERY FOR WINTER USE

should be allowed to get its full growth, but should not be blanched, and should be handled to cause an upright growth. The plants should also be encouraged to make as strong a growth as possible, so as to have thick, long stems. In blanching, the stems of celery grow longer and each one grows a little more slender than the one before it. I prefer not to take it up until just before freezing weather; this should be done only when the tops are perfectly dry,—the crop should never be handled when wet from dew or rain, or when covered with frost. I take up the plants with a ball of earth adhering to the roots and at once pull off about one-third of the outside leaves and stems; these are of no use, they take up room, and I find the celery blanches better if they are removed. The plants should then be taken to the storage house, and stood up close together on the floor, being careful to see that every plant is perfectly upright, or the celery will be crooked when blanched, which will spoil its appearance. Crowd the plants well together and pack some moist earth over and among the roots; water should then be poured over the roots until the earth is well soaked, using care not to get the leaves or stems wet. The celery must not be packed in a solid mass, but be divided every two or three feet by boards held upright by little stakes,—this will afford ventilation and air. Air should be given during mild weather. With such a house the blanching and wintering of celery is very easy, provided three things are observed, viz:

1st—Keep the roots moist.

2d—Keep the tops and leaves dry.

3—Give plenty of air in warm weather, but not much light. To blanch, celery must grow in the dark; if kept in a light place the leaves and stalks will remain green.

M. BENSON.

\*\*\*

### WILD FLOWERS IN THE HOUSE.

THE yellow lady slipper, *Cypripedium pubescens*, is a fine pot plant, blooming in early summer; I potted them in their native soil, and gave them no special attention. *Mertensia oblongifolia* I pot in autumn and treat in the same manner as tulips and hyacinths; the flowers are the loveliest blue imaginable and form a pretty contrast with pink, white, and yellow oxalis.

*Sisyrinchium grandiflorum* I treated like lily of the valley, that is, I allowed the plants to freeze after they were potted, then kept them in a cool place. They

bloomed in a remarkably short time when brought into the warm room.

In the summer I have quite a variety of wild flowers in the house. Perhaps the best are those that form a miniature bog. This is a deep pan, or more often a five gallon oil-can opened at the side, making a tin box, as it were, about nine inches wide and deep, and fourteen inches long. I put in the box some stones and pieces of charred wood, then a layer of swamp moss more or less decayed, then some swamp soil, in which the plants are set. The center is usually a tall bog-fern, *Asplenium filix-mas*, several plants of *mimulus*, *M. luteus* and *M. moschatus*, perhaps two or more *veronicas*, which I admire for their pretty blue forget-me-not flowers; *Claytonia chamissonis* is sometimes added, and there are several that I do not know by name, one evidently a sort of wild cress with small white flowers resembling sweet alyssum but without its fragrance, and another with yellow flowers about the same color as *Alyssum saxatile*, which I think is *Nasturtium curvisiliqua*. A very dwarf Arrow-head is put in when I can get it. In fact my bog garden always contains as many plants as it will hold, and is never twice alike, except that it always has ferns, *mimulus* and *veronica*. It is easily kept in order, as it only requires plenty of water. When a plant becomes unsightly I remove it and if there is room add something else.

SUSAN TUCKER.

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## FEED THE PLANTS.



O many people make the fatal mistake—fatal to the plants—of supposing their favorites can live, thrive and blossom for an entire season without food. As well suppose the locomotive that rushes across the continent to accomplish its labor without the necessary fuel to generate the power, as to expect your floral treasures to put forth leaves and buds abundantly and be beautiful without the fertilizers from which they may collect material, which they alone have the power to change into vegetable matter.

The material that the plant transforms into leaves and blossoms is taken from the soil, and unless the supply is kept up the plant must suffer. It cannot make something out of nothing, but must be supplied with fertilizers at regular intervals to obtain the best results.

Plants that are grown in beds where the roots are free to seek for food, are often enriched but once—at planting time. But when restricted to the narrow limits of a pot, a "little and often" is the rule. If we would not check their growth we must provide the food they cannot collect for themselves. This is accomplished in many ways. Pot shrubs and bulbs are much benefited by removing the soil down to the roots and replacing with fresh earth. This method is recommended for all plants that object to being often disturbed.

Geraniums, chrysanthemums, and all plants of vigorous growth, may, when pot-bound, be turned from the pot, have part of the ball removed, the pot filled above the drainage to the required depth with rich earth, and the ball returned. This should be done as carefully as possible, so as not to injure the fine roots unnecessarily. Also remove the top, if desired, and refill with rich earth. If properly done, an immediate benefit will be noticed in the renewed growth of the plant.

It is a wise precaution to have a basket of rich soil, prepared especially for this purpose, in the cellar as winter arrives. It will more than repay the trouble of securing it.

Liquid manure is a common way of providing plant-food, but like all good things, it must be handled with judgment. It must not be used too strong, upon dry soil, or be allowed to touch the foliage. To prepare it, take a pail part full of decayed manure and pour boiling water over it,—by using hot water the weed-seeds, if any, are destroyed, as also are worms and insect life. After it has cooled and settled, pour off the water, and before using reduce to the color of weak tea. At first, once a week is often enough, but as soon as the plants become accustomed to the stimulant it may be

applied two, and even three, times a week, according to the nature of the plant under treatment. Soot tea is also good for plants, giving them a freshness of foliage and a brilliancy of color that is surprising. It is prepared in the same manner as manure tea, and they may be used together if desired. Soot tea is especially recommended for roses, but is beneficial to all other plants as well.

In repotting plants a little well rotted manure may be placed directly above the drainage, lightly covered with soil so the roots may not come in contact with it until established. Fill in around the ball with soil mixed with manure and when the roots begin to explore the new soil they will find just the food suited to their needs, and will not be slow to profit by your generosity.

For people who find it impossible or inconvenient to prepare the manure tea, so much used as a fertilizer, the prepared plant-foods of various brands are found very useful. They seem to perfectly fill a long-felt want. They are pleasant to use and not bulky to handle; they are sold at a very reasonable rate, with full directions for their use.

For people residing in cities, far from woods and old meadows from which a goodly supply of leafmold and rich sandy loam are to be obtained, the potting soil sold by many florists is very useful. It contains just the right quantity of each kind of soil and well decayed manure, and is best adapted to the needs of plants and bulbs. This is an opportunity not to be neglected, for the florist understands just what is needed and has prepared a better mixture than could be formed by an amateur.

N. WILLIAMS.

\*\*

### THE BLACK FLOWER BEETLE AND THE ASTER BORER.

COMPLAINTS have been made of late years by flower lovers in different parts of the country, of a black beetle which devours the flowers of the aster, hollyhock, etc. This bug resembles the "blister beetle" or old-fashioned potato bug, but is smaller. It comes in swarms each year, about the time hollyhocks or asters commence to bloom, and literally covers the plants, destroying or disfiguring every bloom and frequently eating the buds before they expand. I could not grow an aster if I did not destroy the bugs. I use a pan partly filled with water, into which a little kerosene has been poured,—just enough to cover the

water—then early every morning and late in the evening I go over the plants and jar or shake the bugs into the pan. They have a habit of "possuming" and will drop as soon as disturbed; when they touch the kerosene they give a few kicks and expire. A few days of careful picking will rid the plants of the pests.

Another formidable enemy of the aster and coleus is the borer, which burrows in the stalk just below the surface of the soil. The first evidence which the plant gives of the injury is shown by the leaves drooping and wilting during the heat of the day, freshening up again at night, and every day becoming worse until the plant dies. Sometimes the plants will be nearly eaten off so that a slight wind will blow them over. For a time I was puzzled to know how to fight this insect, but I finally hit upon the following effective remedy: Take a rounding teaspoonful of Paris green and add it to three gallons of water, and apply to the stem of the plant where it enters the soil. The solution should be kept well stirred while using, and enough of it should be applied to soak the soil around the stem of the plant. An application of the poison should be made once every two or three weeks until the plants begin to bloom. It is a sure remedy.

M. BENSON.

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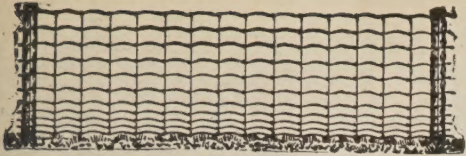
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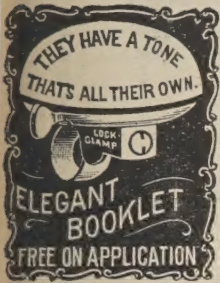




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### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Basket Plants, Some . . . . .	172
Beetle, The Black Flower, and The Aster Borer . . . . .	176
Bulbous Plants . . . . .	163
Calla, The Possibilities of the . . . . .	167
Celery and Root Storage House, A . . . . .	173
Crimson Clover, Feeding . . . . .	168
Datura, or Angels' Trumpet . . . . .	166
Feed the Plants . . . . .	174
Flowers, Hardy . . . . .	170
Flowers, Wild, in the House . . . . .	173
Fungi, Injurious . . . . .	168
Insects, Injurious and Other . . . . .	168
Irises, Japanese . . . . .	172
Letter Box . . . . .	169
Mildew on Roses; Mildew on Pansies; Disease of Sweet Peas; The New Rose, Pink Souper; Sowing Seed in the House; A Bed of Peonies; Curling Rose Leaves, Iris, Ants, Asters. . . . .	
Lice and Ants on Apple Tree . . . . .	172
Pearl, The Mystery of the . . . . .	172
Rose Culture . . . . .	171
Spring and Summer in my Garden . . . . .	166
Strawberries in the Garden . . . . .	172
Sweet Pea, Bride of Niagara . . . . .	168
Sweet Pea Culture, Successful . . . . .	172
Tea, Pennsylvania Mountain . . . . .	172
Tumbling Mustard . . . . .	168



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Full description of, and instructions when and how to plant all varieties of **Fall Bulbs** for house and outdoor culture. Also winter flowering plants for the house.

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The above collection of Seven Bulbs for 65 cents postpaid

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